Abstract

A communication node contains intelligence for directing both internet protocol (IP) packets and Asychronous Transfer Mode (ATM) cells toward their destinations. The ATM cells and IP packets may be received within a common data stream. The respective devices process the ATM cells and IP packets to direct the cells and packets to the proper output ports towards their destinations. The device is capable of performing policing and quality of service (QOS) processing on both the ATM cells and the IP packets.